



**Air Force Prime Time**, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursdays at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition, follow Royal Air Force Lakenheath's 48th Medical Group to Mozambique, Africa, for MEDFLAG 2001, see what it takes to set up a clinic in a remote African village and more.

## News briefs

### Commander's call for staffs, techs

Col. Greg Ihde, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, holds a meeting for all Team Eifel staff and technical sergeants Tuesday from 3-5 p.m. in the Spangdahlem Air Base theater. Supervisors should allow maximum participation.

### Polizei looking for witnesses

During the "Wild im Wald," a disco-music festival in Bitburg-Moetsch July 28, a young woman was hit with a beer bottle for defending a young black male who was being insulted with racial slurs. According to Polizei reports, the perpetrator appeared to belong to a rightist skinhead group. The woman was hospitalized for a week.

The young, black male who was insulted is an important witness for the pending proceeding and is asked to either call the German Polizei directly at 0651-9779361 or 0651-9779316 or the local Air Force Office of Special Investigations at 452-6291 or 452-6371. Other people who may have observed the above events are also asked to call.

### Blood drive

The 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron hosts a blood drive Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center. For more information, call 452-6738.

### Longer gas station hours

Spangdahlem Air Base's gas station holds a 90-day expanded hours test. The facility operates 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, according to Stan McGhee, AAFES manager. Depending upon use, McGhee may extend the hours even further.

### Office closure

The 52nd Medical Group family practice clinic, including immunizations and outpatient records, is closed Aug. 24 for mandatory readiness training, commander's call and group function.

For more information, call 452-8142.

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# Eifel Times

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Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Aug. 17, 2001



Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey

Airman 1st Class Anthony Muggerud, 52nd Support Squadron, suggests various off-duty activities for airmen assigned to Spangdahlem Air Base. Glen Garrison, 52nd Services Squadron business flight chief and marketing facilitator, notes Muggerud's suggestions during the survey, which took place after a base-wide E-4 and below wing commander's meeting Aug. 9. After the meeting with Col. Greg Ihde, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, airmen were encouraged to stay about 30 minutes longer to share their ideas on how to improve quality-of-life for junior-ranking airmen living here. Suggestions included extending hours for recreational activities, such as the bowling center and clubs, adding more movie showings at the base theater and more information, Ticket and Tours trips to European amusement parks.

## Wing commander looks for better ways

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Col. Greg Ihde, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, and a theater packed with wing junior-ranking airmen shared ideas on how to improve Team Eifel mission readiness and quality of life during a meeting Aug. 9.

Ihde challenged the airmen to "raise the bar. We need all of the airmen to get involved, be proactive, strive for excellence and be winners."

To find out what airmen think would help improve morale and quality of life, especially during off-duty hours, Ihde asked, "What would you like to see here?"

Some of the suggestions airmen made during the meeting included:

- Culture and theme nights at the club and community activities center;

- Enlarging the fitness center on the Bitburg Annex and improving its ventilation

- Extended hours at the fitness centers, movie theater, clubs, dining establishments, bowling center and child care centers;

- Expanding bus service to military members living in government-leased housing

- Sponsoring band and big name act performances on base;

- More trips geared toward airmen, such as to sporting events, festivals and amusement parks;

- More food variety;

- Glow-golfing, rugby games, base pool for recreational and lap swimming and brighter lights on the outdoor basketball courts; and

- Adding other forms of base entertainment, such as sponsoring more on-base sporting events and shows at the clubs.

Some initial requests, made to the wing commander through other venues, included a Subway sandwich shop and a Taco Bell,

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## Additional FOCUS money improves Spangdahlem GSUs

### Funding Opportunities for Communities in USAFE provides recreation, other benefits

By Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Command officials recently provided another \$1.1 million in fiscal 2001 to major bases and geographically separated units to

improve quality of life for people across United States Air Forces in Europe.

Nearly \$100,000 of that money benefits Spangdahlem Air Base geographically separated units.

Since 1997, USAFE commanders targeted projects under the Funding Opportunities for Communities in USAFE, or FOCUS, program. Through the program, facilities and programs are identified that

may not otherwise be funded, according to Raymond Hosse, USAFE financial management and comptroller directorate. The USAFE commander personally approves all the projects and money comes from a central account held for him.

These funds are typically aimed at services such as youth programs, child development and community centers, according to Capt. Darrell Williams, 52nd

Comptroller Squadron.

Money slated for Spangdahlem AB GSUs includes:

- \$8,000 for an audio system in the 52nd Munitions Support Squadron family support center at Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgium. About \$500,000 in FOCUS money last year went into the construction of the nearly six-

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**(Editor's Note: SPANGDAHLEM under Construction is a periodic update of projects around the base. The goal is to inform people of various facility upgrades, road construction, detours renovations and more, and how it impacts people who live and work on base. Information for the column is provided by members of the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron.)**

**Project:** Continuation of Bitburg Annex parking lot asphalt resurfacing.

**Location:** On Bitburg Annex, along Barnwell Street, specifically buildings 6, 8 and 9. Also, the parking lot of building 5 is affected because of the neighboring child development center.

**Start date:** Ongoing.

**Completion date:** Aug. 24, weather permitting.

**Current impact:** While the asphalt is covered with sand and prior to asphalt resurfacing Monday, people are asked to park six feet from the curbs in cul-de-sacs.

The contractor is completing the final installation and will remove sand from the parking lots and start asphalt resurfacing, beginning Monday. During this phase, people must park outside of the cul-de-sac. After the sand is completely removed, the parking slots will be painted. The whole project should be complete by Aug. 24.

## Accidents

*(Editor's note: The term airman in this article does not necessarily mean Air Force people in the grades E-1 through E-4, but a generic term for all Air Force members.)*

**By Staff Sgt. Edward D. Paxton**  
52nd Security Forces Squadron  
Reports and Analysis

Team Eifel experienced 15 vehicle accidents this week, two of which were major ones.

The first happened when an airman lost control of his vehicle and struck a bridge guardrail while traveling west on B-50, across from the first Dudeldorf exit. It was determined he was traveling too fast for road conditions. His vehicle was totaled and the guardrail damage consisted of 12 missing rails and four rails broken loose from the frame.

The other accident happened on B-50 between Niederkail and Binsfeld. An investigation revealed the airman was distracted by his cell phone and swerved into oncoming traffic. He over-corrected and struck three concrete fence poles. His vehicle was totaled and the three concrete fence poles were broken. Wittlich Polizei cited him for

inattentive driving.

The 13 minor accidents involved:

■ Two for speed too fast for road conditions.

■ Six accidents occurred while backing.

■ Five were from inattentive driving.

Also, 25 citations were issued.

Keep in mind these driving tips:

School starts Aug. 27. In accordance with Air Force instruction 31-204 and U.S. Army Europe 190-1, drivers must stop their privately-owned vehicles when passengers are getting on or off school buses on U.S. forces-controlled property, regardless of whether the POV is following or approaching the school bus. People who don't stop for school buses or school-crossing signals will have four points added to their driving record.

Please write down and keep in mind the following alternative rides.

AADD	0656561-2233
Taxi- Spangdahlem	06565-951010
Taxi-Bitburg	06561-17066

Also, when in doubt, use your chain of command.

## Commander

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open until midnight; longer shopping hours at the base exchange and more than one evening movie at the base theater.

Before the Aug. 9 meeting, Ihde tested airmen's concerns that there's little to do after 9 p.m. After attending a movie on a recent Friday night at the Spangdahlem Air Base theater, he went out to explore what else there is for people to do in the evening. To his surprise, Ihde discovered the only thing staying open past 9 p.m. was the base shoppette and the Saber Club.

Although the services squadron is seriously considering all of the suggestions, and the Army, Air Force Exchange Service is also reviewing services it provides, the only way to make suggestions work is by proving the services are necessary, Ihde said.

One example is the gas station's current extended hours test. People have to use the gas station during the extended hours for AAFES to continue keeping it open longer, Ihde explained. For the businesses to stay open longer hours, they must at least financially break even.

Some of the suggestions made by airmen are for programs or resources the base already has in place.

"This indicated to us we need to reconsider how we're advertising base activities and target some of these existing programs for younger troops," said Glen Garrison, 52nd Services Squadron business flight chief.

One example is a request for a community activities center. Another was a request for bowling specials, but when Garrison suggested the airmen try glo-bowling at the base bowling center, some airmen didn't know what it was or when it's available.

Services squadron members are working with more than three pages of suggestions airmen made at the meeting and developing a program to implement some of the suggestions to revamp existing programs as early as September. The program is expected to take up to three months to fully examine the possibilities of all the suggestions submitted, Garrison said.

If in a few months, people don't see results, Ihde said he doesn't want people to think the suggestions weren't taken to heart.

"There are some things we just can't do," he explained. "But, we are looking into it to see what can possibly be done. The key is if we do get some of the things you're asking for, we must use them and make sure it is worth the effort for all of the people to provide the services."

## Briefs

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### Office closure

The 52nd Fighter Wing Legal Office closes Monday for a formal staff assistance visit. Additionally, the office will not provide legal assistance Aug. 29 because of office training.

### Helmet inspection

The 52nd Medical Group holds a safety helmet inspection Monday from 6-8 p.m. at the Bitburg Middle School parking lot.

### Child safety seat check

The 52nd Medical Group holds child safety seat checks Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at the Bitburg Middle School parking lot. For more information, call Sharon Gilmore at 452-3130.

### Munitions inventory

The munitions storage area suspends all transactions Sept. 4-30 to conduct a 100-percent stockpile inventory. During the inventory, only emergency requests submitted in accordance with directives will be

processed. For more, call Master Sgt. Robert Keyser at 452-6230.

### Air Force Ball

The Company Grade Officer's Council-sponsored Air Force Ball takes place Sept. 7. Social hour starts at 6 p.m., with dinner starting at 7 p.m. This year's theme is "NATO and Spangdahlem Air Base United in Airpower."

Tickets are available now by e-mailing unit first sergeants or designated points of contact.

### Readiness council

The 52nd Fighter Wing Readiness Council meets Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. in the building 23 wing conference room. All commanders or readiness representatives should attend. For more information, call Capt. Lori Kabel at 452-6501.

### Consular Outreach Day

The American Consulate General in Frankfurt holds a "Consular Outreach Day" Sept. 19 at the military personnel flight in building 131.

Representatives from the passport

and citizenship section, immigration and naturalization, and the Social Security office will be there. They will accept tourist passport applications and answer questions concerning several issues.

Passports will not be processed on the spot, but will be ready in one to two weeks, versus the normal four to six weeks.

To get a tourist passport, people need to bring evidence of U.S. citizenship, such as a birth certificate, old or expired passport, naturalization certificate or certificate of citizenship and name change documentation, if appropriate. Also, bring a money order and two identical photos (size 2 inches by 2 inches).

Because the cost of passports varies depending on circumstances, people are asked to call Rita Merkes at 452-6813.

### Panther Paws

Updated Panther Paws 2001-2002 travel guides, with Web site and e-mail information, are available at Spangdahlem Air Base BXtra, Bitburg Annex main exchange and

## FOCUS

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month-old facility.

■ \$44,000 for aerobics equipment and renovation of the sports field at the 52nd MUNSS.

■ \$25,000 for weight lifting and other recreational equipment for both the 752nd Munitions Support Squadron at Volkel Air Base, the Netherlands, and 852nd Munitions

Support Squadron at Buechel Air Base, Germany.

■ \$5,000 for vehicle inspection station shelters for the 470th Air Base Squadron at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany.

In December, the command gave \$3.9 million in FOCUS funds to USAFE bases and GSUs, for a total \$5 million targeted for fiscal 2001 projects. FOCUS funding during the past six years roughly totals \$25 million.

# Martin stresses importance of first impressions

## FIRST LOOK program aims to 'raise the bar' at Spangdahlem Air Base

By Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Gen. Greg Martin, United States Air Forces in Europe commander, launched a new program earlier this year aimed at making the command a place people want to come to. He wants to start with first impressions.

The goal of this command-wide effort is to improve the way USAFE recruits new members, moves them and their families to Europe, conducts in-processing, meets the member's and family's quality of life expectations while living in Europe and sends them off to their next assignment, Martin explained.

"Our current processes aren't broken, but we need to review issues and spark 'USAFE pride' when it comes to taking care of our people," he said.

Each of the six command bases have a Project FIRST LOOK team made up of representatives from nearly every conceivable agency on base. Spangdahlem Air Base's team leader is Lt. Col. Peter Ellis, 52nd Mission Support Squadron commander.

"To meet the goals established by the command, we want to focus on both 'high-tech and high-touch' solutions to identify and eliminate irritants in our processes and services," Ellis said. "We're targeting 100 percent of our population - military, Defense Department and local national civilians, families and our GSUs. It's about doing the absolute best for our people, both permanent party and temporary duty."

After only about three months since forming, the Spangdahlem AB team, based upon surveys conducted throughout the base, identified the top 10 issues to resolve.

Those are:

- Internet access for new members and their families.

- Streamline newcomer's orientation from seven to two hours and find a better-suited permanent location. Currently, the orientation is held in the community activities center, chapel annex or one of the clubs, depending upon availability.

- Consolidate out-processing by developing e-mail and Web-based procedures where possible, eliminating unnecessary stops and implementing a one-time only visit to the military personnel flight.

- Improve finance in-processing for people at geographically separated units.

- Increase hiring efforts to eliminate staff shortages in the child development centers.

- Highlight and increase visibility of child development center and youth programs.

- Add more storage space in government-leased housing.

- Establish a Spangdahlem AB FIRST LOOK Web page.

- Renovate the base housing office.

- Improve accessibility to newcomer's information.

"We want to 'raise the bar' in everything we do," said Col. Greg Ihde, 52nd Fighter Wing commander. "We're trying to make sure we serve our people."

"In doing so, we want to make these processes more interactive using technology wherever we can. We're going to use our Web site so people inbound can access information before they get here - find out about the school system, register their children, learn about obtaining a driver's license and study for the tests, find out about where they will live whether on or off base. This will all be on the Web so people can familiarize themselves and their families



Senior Airman James Davis  
Gen. Greg Martin, United States Air Forces in Europe commander, launched a new program earlier this year aimed at making the command a place people want to come to.

before they arrive."

To thoroughly cover all aspects of each of the three target areas and meet program goals, the base team also developed three surveys for people to provide input. Located on the base intranet, the surveys solicit input on "getting here," "living here" and "leaving here." They're located at <http://intranet.spang.af.mil/misc/testing/firstlook/>.

"We'll continue to collect customer feedback using these surveys," Ellis said, "and we'll use it to continue to focus in on initiatives already in the works, as well as to stand up new initiatives."

"The bottom line," said Lt. Gen. Moorhead, USAFE vice commander, "is ensuring we cover our people from getting here, to living here, to leaving here."

Ihde strongly encourages everyone to get involved in the program.

"We really want people's inputs," he said. "If you're mailed a 'living here' survey (geared toward people who've been here about 18 months), we really want your inputs. We want to know what we can do to make your lives easier while you're working and living here. We want the same thing when you're outbound. We want to take out of the process the mindless walking from place to place to get those initials."

"We want every single member of Team Eifel to leave here feeling this was, in fact, the best assignment they ever had."

Martin feels so strongly about the program, he told wing commanders the next time he visits their bases, he wants to meet the wing's entire FIRST LOOK team, as well as see their First Term Airmen's Center, temporary living quarters, housing referral process, in-processing procedures, CDCs and medical facilities.

# Targeted pay raises: Three options for new year

By Staff Sgt. Amy Parr  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Jan. 1 marks the beginning of a new year, as well as the start of the military's latest pay raise.

With recruiting and retention on the front burner, many leaders hope increased pay will entice people to join the military and encourage those already in the service to stay.

But, should raises be equal across the board or should certain ranks be targeted? And, if targeted raises is the correct response, which ranks should be targeted and at what percentage?

Currently, there are three proposals for targeting pay: the defense secretary's plan, Program Budget Decision 801; House Resolution 2310; and HR 2494.

There is also the opportunity for an across-the-board pay raise at either 4.6 percent within current budget guidelines, or at 6.8 percent with the additional \$1 billion recommended by President George W. Bush for military pay.

Bush's budget provides funding for a 4.6 percent increase and allows \$1 billion more toward military pay, said Maj. Shannon Averill, chief of Air Force pay and allowances.

In keeping with the president's budget submission, the Department of Defense plan takes the additional money and gives all ranks a flat 5-percent raise. It then targets particular grades for a total raise of 6 to 10 percent. The highest raises

will go to mid- and senior NCOs and warrant officers, with 6 and 6.5 percent going to O-3s and O-4s, respectively.

HR 2310, proposed by Rep. John Murtha, provides an overall 7.3-percent raise with certain ranks receiving up to 10.5 percent. His plan targets enlisted members, depending on pay grade and years of service, with raises up to 10.5 percent. It also targets O-3s and O-4s with raises of 8.3 and 9 percent, respectively.

Rep. Ike Skelton's plan, HR 2494, calls for a minimum 7.3 percent and maximum 12.3 percent increase. For enlisted members, Skelton's plan calls for an increase of 8.3 to 12.3 percent. His plan also targets O-3s and O-4s, receiving 8.3 and 8.8 percent, respectively.

Averill said the congressmen's plans would require additional money. HR 2310 would cost an additional estimated \$600 million for 2002. HR 2494 is estimated to cost an additional \$1 billion.

Regardless of which plan is selected, Averill said pay raises are needed to keep pace with the private sector.

"Military pay raise shortfalls contributed greatly to retention and hollow-force problems of the '70s," she said. "But, 'catch-up' pay raises in (the 1980s) helped reverse those trends."

Leaders hope pay raises will help once again reverse negative recruiting and retention trends.

Averill said the adequacy of military pay raises is

measured against annual average wage increases in the private sector, as measured by the Employment Cost Index.

Currently, military pay is estimated at 10.8 percent behind the private sector. The Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 requires federal employee raises for civilian and military to be 0.5 percent below the ECI.

The Fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act set the military pay raise at 0.5 percent for five years to reduce the gap.

"The Air Force agrees any pay raise that helps reduce the military and private sector wage gap is good, but it doesn't address all of our concerns," Averill said. "The Air Force is concerned with the ever-widening gap between wages of private sector and our enlisted corps for the same education and experience levels, making promotion a more attractive alternative than separation, current pay table compression, and the retention issues of our enlisted and officer corps. The defense secretary's plan for a targeted pay raise addresses those concerns while the across-the-board pay raise doesn't. That's why Air Force leadership advocates targeted pay raises for 2002."

With an all-volunteer force, compensation programs must keep pace with the private sector to attract and retain quality, high-tech people in an environment of economic growth, low unemployment and with a very competitive marketplace, Averill said.



# Air Force goes digital with technical orders

By Senior Airman Lee Watts  
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

**SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.** — The Air Force is quietly revolutionizing its aircraft-maintenance technical orders by converting millions of pages of text, illustrations and data tables into millions of electronic bytes.

To fulfill Department of Defense directives, the Air Force is testing methods of digitizing its traditional library of technical orders in a format that can be accessed by a variety of electronic tools. Each major command is testing digital TOs at several bases with the goal of implementing an Air Force-wide system by the end of 2004. Technical orders are the operating instructions for Air Force aircraft, explaining how to maintain and fix them.

The new digital TOs will have some major advantages over their paper predecessors, said Master Sgt. Darrell Williams, chief of technical data distribution for Air Combat Command.

Williams is part of a team that is testing and evaluating the F-16 Fighting Falcon's International Technical Orders Digitalization Program — one of ACC's potential answers to the digitization change.

"The biggest benefit is the most accurate and up-to-date TOs will be distributed to the users in the least amount of time," Williams said. The time involved in writing and editing the TOs and the cost of printing them should shrink as well.

More time will be saved in posting changes and maintaining files. That is good news for F-16 maintainers in the 20th Fighter Wing's engine shop here, one of the test sites for the digital TOs.

"I have to deal with more than 1,600 TOs," said Senior Airman Dana Lee, 79th Fighter Squadron technical order distribution assistant. "Between me and my assistant, we spend at least 50 hours every week just maintaining them."

Those hours are eliminated with the new electronic system. Using any of a variety of electronic readers, maintainers will be able to update their TO libraries by accessing a central repository and downloading the latest changes.

The digital TOs should also significantly reduce the "mobility footprint" — the size and weight of items that must accompany a unit when it deploys.

There are 1.4 million pages of technical data to support the F-16 fleet worldwide — about 14,000 pounds of paper.



File photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero  
**Airman 1st Class William Doe, 22nd Fighter Squadron crew chief, documents a task on aircraft forms before morning takeoff.**

One of the e-tools being tested weighs about eight pounds and can hold the entire F-16 technical data set.

"We anticipate more than \$200 million in savings over the lifetime of the aircraft and that's just for the F-16," said Al Simpson, ITOD field service evaluation manager.

The Air Force is evaluating a variety of cutting-edge e-tools, on loan from commercial industry, as part of the testing program. The Air Force will pick the best hardware and software right before the system enters the field to

ensure it has the most up-to-date technology.

"Not only are we testing the traditional laptops and handheld-organizer-type machines, but also eyepieces that project the equivalent of a 15-inch screen to the user as well as other wearable hardware," Williams said. "Some of the prototypes attach to the wrist like a watch while others fit around the waist. Some have voice-activated interfaces and others make use of slate technology."

The Air Force is not taking a "one size fits all" approach to selecting the right e-tool, Williams said. Low-profile slate-type devices may be right for flightline maintenance technicians such as crew chiefs and weapons load crews. An avionics technician may find a laptop or wearable device easier to use when performing functional checks.

The hardware needs to be able to stand up to grease, jet fuel, hydraulic fluid and more than a few hard knocks. In addition to being water and heat resistant, the circuits in some of the models are even packed in a gel for shock absorption. "The computers are extremely durable," Williams said.

Tests in the field confirmed this.

"As part of durability testing we greased up the computers, dropped them off of tool boxes and they were still working," said Master Sgt. Kyle Blanchard, a jet-engine expert with the 20th Component Repair Squadron here.

Maintainers also found the Windows-based system to be user-friendly.

"Digital TOs are a lot better than paper: You never have to wait to do a job because someone else has the TO you need," said Tech. Sgt. Kermie Beasley, 20th CRS engine shop dock chief.

Beasley, who has worked with digital TOs for three years, said, "You don't have to worry about pages being ripped out or not being readable because they are smeared with grease."

Testing with a variety of electronic tools will continue as more technical orders are converted to a digital format. The 388th Component Repair Squadron at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, is also testing digital TOs as part of the ITOD program.

"This is the time for change," Williams said. "The technology is out there, and airman entering the service today have the computer savvy to apply the new technology." (Air Force Print News)

## Survey indicates Air Force people hope for better moves

### Moving expenses too high, people say

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — Increased quality for bluesuiters and lower costs for the government equals a win-win situation.

That was the plan for the Department of Defense's new Full Service Moving Project, a quality-of-life initiative intended to streamline and simplify the movement of household goods for military people.

The FSMP initiative began as a test program at a handful of stateside bases earlier this year. The program concept offered point-to-point move management, guaranteed pickup and delivery with a two-hour window, binding cost estimates, full replacement value protection and direct claims processing. The intent was to reduce government administrative costs, claims and overhead.

But, with the results falling short of an

accepted level of quality for its members, the Air Force will end its participation in the program Sept. 30, said Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff.

It is all about taking care of Air Force people, said Lt. Gen. Michael E. Zettler, the deputy chief of staff for Installations and Logistics at the Pentagon.

"The Air Force is committed to improving the quality of life for our people," he said. "And we know changes need to be made to the existing personal property program that services the majority of Air Force members unaffected by the FSMP test program."

Surveys were taken of those who participated in the FSMP to get customer feedback of the test program.

"Our Air Force members indicated

they're more concerned about reducing their out-of-pocket expenses than they are about personal property movements," said Lt. Gen. Donald L. Peterson, deputy chief of staff for personnel at the Pentagon.

"Moves can place a lot of financial stress on our members," Peterson said. "By reducing their out-of-pocket expenses through increased dislocation

allowances and temporary lodging expenses,

**"The Air Force is committed to improving the quality of life for our people ... and we know changes need to be made to the existing personal property program."**

**Lt. Gen. Michael E. Zettler**

we can alleviate much of that financial stress. And, a less stressful move is likely to be a better experience for the military family."

Although FSMP will be discontinued, traffic management officials at the

Pentagon said valuable lessons were learned from it, and will be incorporated into future endeavors.

"We're recommending the best quality initiatives of the test program be used to build the world-class personal property shipment program of the future," said Lt. Col. Andrew Kiracofe, chief of the Air Force traffic management division at the Pentagon. "We've learned valuable lessons and we'll apply that knowledge in ongoing efforts to improve the Air Force's household goods moving process."

Most Air Force members will not be affected by the termination of FSMP, which impacted less than 10 percent of Air Force moves, Kiracofe said. The program covered moves from Minot Air Force Base, N.D.; Moody Air Force Base, Ga.; and the National Capitol Region.

# Largest air show in Germany attracts big crowd

## Hahn In Motion offers airport show for entire family Saturday, Sunday

By Iris Reiff  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

This weekend, the former U.S. military-operated Hahn Air Base, now Frankfurt-Hahn Airport, becomes the site for a great mix of culture, action and many years of flying history, both military and civilian.

"Hahn In Motion" will make the hearts of war birds and aviation fans beat faster, with a lot of close-up rarities on the flightline and unique flying demonstrations.

Solo-flying demonstrations by the Mustang, Spitfire and Corsair, as well as the only Yak 3 in Europe still capable of flying, takes place Saturday and Sunday.

The Apache Aerobatic Team presents the red Pilatus PC7 in the air. Royal Jordanian Falcons perform and Scandinavian historic flights are also on schedule.

Among static aircraft displays are the German aircraft ECR Tornado, Phantom and MiG 29.

Glider pilots can keep a close eye on the flight demonstrations of Henry Bohlig, the co-world champion in gliding aerobatics. With his partner Mike Rotland, they offers synchronic aerobatic demonstrations with the Swift S1. The world champion for jet model flights, Wolfgang Kluehr, performs air displays with a true-to-scale MiG 29. Two other planes can be admired during model synchronic stunt flight formations.

While Michael Shalton, dressed in a costume of the "Flying Man", chats with visitors, sky dancer Frank Versteegh, one of the world's top 10 stunt flyers, performs loops, barrel rolls and turns.

Other performances include stunt flying shows, old-timer shows, airship displays and performances, balloon rides, parachute jumpers, flight simulator rides and more in the sky and on the ground.

Flights over the Rhine and Mosel Rivers, as well as the Hunsrueck area, in the JU-52, nostalgic biplanes, modern

helicopters and other air vehicles are available to the public.

Representatives from the German air force offer an opportunity for people from Spangdahlem Air Base to meet their German counterparts. Also people can learn anything they wanted to know about the Phantom and MiG 29. Demonstrations of both airplanes are scheduled for demonstration. As a special attraction, a jet flight simulator will be set up.

Visitors can enjoy a flight in a JU-52 by the Swiss JU-Air at a speed of about 170 kilometers per hour. Only 17 passengers are allowed on each nostalgic flight. Thirty-minute flights in the Antonov 2, also called "Aunt Anna," the world's largest biplane are also scheduled. Only eight people are allowed on each of these flights.

Saturday's highlight is a concert on the large show stage, featuring the Beach Boys Revival Band, the Rattles and the Spencer Davis Group. Starting at 6 p.m., various opening bands draw the attention to the main concert, which starts at 9 p.m. offering pop and rock legends. For those buying the all-day ticket for 25 DM per person, the concert is included. Children, ages 4-14, pay 15 DM and a family ticket for up to five people is available for 60 DM. Tickets for the grandstand include a reserved seat and cost 43 DM. Family grandstand cards, valid for a maximum of five people, are available for 118 DM.

Online reservations can be made at [www.hahn-in-motion.de](http://www.hahn-in-motion.de). Parking lots are available near access roads. A continuous shuttle service to and from these parking lots to the entrances is available. Entry starts at 9 a.m. both days.



Courtesy photo

This weekend people can enjoy a variety of aircraft and entertainment at Hahn In Motion, Germany's largest air show, at Frankfurt-Hahn Airport, formerly a U.S.-operated Air Force base.

The entertainment programs in the air begin at 10 a.m. and end at 6 p.m.

Also, different snacks and meals will be available.

In the course of the American troop reduction in Germany, the U.S. Air Force returned Hahn Air Base back to the German government in 1993. Since then, the former air base in the Hunsrueck has become the fourth largest cargo airport in Germany, ranking as number 78 worldwide. In 2000, a total of 75,000 tons of air cargo was transported and 380,000 passengers used the airport.

More than 80,000 people are expected to attend this year's event at the Frankfurt-Hahn airport, located in the Hunsrueck.

To get to Hahn, take the Autobahn A1 toward Ramstein Air Base until you see the Hahn exit. Follow signs to the parking lots and take the shuttle bus to the sites. For details, go to [www.hahn-in-motion.de](http://www.hahn-in-motion.de) or call 06543-508166.



## Out and about



■ Visit a flea market Sunday along the Zeltingen Mosel shore, in front of the Idar-Oberstein Handelshof, inside and outside the Piesport Moseltal hall, at the Trier Tarforst University parking lot, in front of the Kenn Wal-Mart store and in front of the Bitburg Hela department store located on Koelner Strasse.

■ Attend the Bernkastel-Kues annual wine and street festival today through Sunday. Taste some of the finest wines at local stands and try Mosel food specialties. Musical entertainment is scheduled.

■ The Dudeldorf Sports Club Mixery-Caribic-Night takes place tonight. It features the Gogo Girls, a giant foam cannon and a Caribean cocktail bar. Entry is 8 DM.

■ Attend the Bernkastel-Kues Middle Mosel wine festival Aug. 30 through Sept. 9.

■ Manderscheid holds its annual historical castle festival Aug. 25-26. More information will be printed in the next issue of the Eifel Times.

■ Get tickets to see Thomas Schwab and Band performing one of its highlight rock and pop summer night performances Sunday in the Trier Amphitheater. The event starts at 8 p.m. and tickets typically sell out quickly. For more information or tickets, call 06531-94407.

Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in August and September. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg Annex Community Center at 452-9120 for details.

■ Manderscheid Jousting Festival, Aug. 25. Cost is \$20 for

ages 3-12, \$25 for adults.

■ Disneyland Paris and fireworks show, Aug. 25. Cost is \$85 for ages 3-11, \$95 for adults.

■ Budapest for three nights, Aug. 30-Sept. 3. Cost is \$398 for adults.

■ Bernkastel wine festival, Sept. 1. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for ages 3-12.

■ Rothenburg City festival, Sept. 1. Cost is \$40 for adults and \$35 for ages 3-12.

■ Rhein River cruise, dinner and wine tasting, Sept. 2. Cost is \$55 per person.

■ Oberhausen Mall, Sept. 3. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for ages 3-12.

■ Bad Dürkheim wine and sausage festival, Sept. 8. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for ages 3-12.

■ Brussels, Belgium, express,

Sept. 8. Cost is \$40 for adults and \$35 for ages 3-12.

■ Paris overnight, Sept. 15-16. Cost is \$185 for adults and \$130 for ages 3-12.

■ Rhein in Flames, Sept. 15. Cost is \$80 per person.

■ Ramstein Bazaar, Sept. 15. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for ages 3-12.

■ Oktoberfest overnight, Sept. 22-23. Cost is \$179 per person.

■ Oktoberfest express, Sept. 22. Cost is \$70 per person.

■ Cochem medieval dinner, Sept. 22. Cost is \$65 per person.

■ Oktoberfest express, Sept. 29. Cost is \$70 per person.

■ Paris express, Sept. 29. Cost is \$89 for adults and \$75 for ages 3-17.

The outdoor recreation program sponsors the following trips in

August and September. Call 452-7176 for details.

■ Imaginary camping trip for ages 3-5, Wednesday. Activity is free.

■ Luxembourg city bike tour, Aug. 25. Cost is \$25 for people 14 and older without bike rental, \$30 with bike rental.

■ Holland North Sea kayak and bike trip, Aug. 31-Sept. 3. Cost is \$150 for people 14 and older.

■ Canoeing and camping in Cochem, Sept. 7-9. Cost is \$65 for adults and \$50 for ages 6-18. Family price for two adults and two children is \$200.

■ Two-day caving trip, Sept. 15-16. Cost is \$70 for people 14 and older.

■ Kyll River kayak trip, Sept. 29, \$30 for people 12 and older.

■ Canoe or sea kayak on the Mosel River, Sept. 30. Cost is \$25 for people 12 and older.



## Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

### Bitburg Castle

Today

#### Cats and Dogs (PG)

There's a secret war being waged in Earth's homes and neighborhoods that humans don't know about — an eternal struggle between cats and dogs. Cats plan to destroy a new vaccine, that if developed, would destroy all human allergies to dogs.

Saturday

#### Shrek (PG, 4 p.m.)

A hideous green monster, Shrek, sets out on a quest to find the perfect wife for a king - and terrifies everyone he meets during his adventures.

Cats and Dogs

Sunday

#### Cats and Dogs (4 p.m.)

### What's the Worst That Could Happen? (PG-13)

A billionaire catches a thief robbing his mansion. To get even with him, he takes the thief's lucky charm ring. Deprived of his good luck charm, and faced with a future of bad luck, the thief begins wreaking revenge on the tycoon.

### Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

#### The Score (R)

An aging thief has retired to live off of his riches by running a Montreal jazz lounge. But he's soon blackmailed into doing one more heist by a young upstart. The unlikely alliance requires that Nick violate his most important rule to always work alone.

Thursday

#### The Dish (PG-13)

### Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

#### The Dish

Saturday

#### The Dish

Sunday

#### The Animal (PG-13, 4 p.m.)

After a near-fatal car crash, Marvin has no idea he is about to become a guinea pig for a bizarre procedure in which his body is repaired with a strange fusion of animal organs. As the animals within him start to take over, his world gets more unpredictable.

### Moulin Rouge (PG-13)

Satine, the Sparkling Diamond, star of the Moulin Rouge and the city's most famous courtesan is caught between the love of a young writer and another man's obsession. The writer, Christian, finds himself plunged into this decadent world where anything goes except falling in love.

Monday

#### Pearl Harbor (PG-13)

It was the end of innocence, and the dawn of a nation's greatest glory. Pearl Harbor is a fictional story of two best friends, Rafe and Danny, and the challenges of war.

Tuesday

#### The Dish

### Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.  
For the most current information,  
call 452-9441.



Courtesy photo

Thousands of people are expected to join in the festivities at the Wittlich Pig Burner's Festival this weekend. People who plan to drink alcohol are reminded to either have a designated driver or call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 0656561-2233 or 0656561-4357 or the Ride For Life Program at 06575-1010 or 06565-951010.

## Local pigfest highlights weekend

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

According to legends, Wittlich was once a walled fortress constantly under attack by invaders. One evening, a guard in charge of locking the gate to the besieged town couldn't find the peg to secure the fortified door. All he could find was a large carrot to wedge in the door. Later, a pig ate the carrot, the gate opened and the enemy came in.

After the enemy ransacked the town, the angry townspeople herded every pig into the town's market square and roasted them.

Since then, the town of Wittlich has been known as the town of the pig burners.

Once a year the community of Wittlich holds a festival that attracts thousands of visitors. Activities takes place today through Monday, featuring a variety of entertainment events such as a handicraft market, many amusement rides, musical performances, a wine street and plenty of roasted pork.

This festival, which is one of a kind in the local area, starts off with a craftsman's market on the city's Lieserplatz. The market stays open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day of the festival. A concert by the Wittlich brass band takes place from 9 a.m. until midnight in the city's main market square.

Local residents performs a special play at 9:15 tonight in the city park and have a torch procession through the streets of Wittlich, recreating the circumstances of the legend. To see the entire event, start at the Tuermchen tower, located in the center of town.

Although events are scheduled for today, Wittlich's annual pig festival officially opens Saturday at 3 p.m., immediately after the first pigs arrive in the market place via a horse-drawn wagon. Wine stands open up and musical entertainment by the Wittlich brass band and the Luexem Music Association takes place at 3:30 p.m. in the market square. Then the first pigs are roasted on the spits and the Schweinebraten, or barbecued pork, is ready to be enjoyed starting at 5 p.m. As is the case with many European festivals, visitors first buy tickets, which are in turn exchanged for the delicious pork. The tickets can be purchased at the tourist information office's window in the market square.

Throughout the event, two stages are set up in the market square and on Pariser Platz,



Courtesy photo

The Wittlich Pig Burner's Festival takes place this weekend. Around 130 pigs will be roasted during the event.

both located in the center of town. Music continuously plays on both stages by local music associations and bands and also by popular groups known throughout Germany and some places in Europe. The group Soul Kitchen performs at 9 p.m. Saturday in the market square, while the group Dirty Sheeps performs at the same time on Pariser Platz.

Activities continue Sunday, featuring musical performances by various local bands, starting around 10:30 a.m. Concerts by several local music bands and music associations are scheduled to take place at noon and last throughout the afternoon.

Different bands perform on stage Sunday evening when the market square is crowded and people usually dance, sing and listen to the music.

Activities continue Monday with concerts by local bands, starting at 10:30 a.m. Schweinebraten is available at noon. Children's entertainment takes place from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in the market square, with more music to follow. Celebrations end with musical entertainment by the California

Band on Pariser Platz and Kenneth King and the Band Party Plus. A huge amusement park offers more than 60 rides and game stands throughout the festival.

Although the pig festival officially comes to an end late Monday night, the amusement park and food stands remain open Tuesday from 1 until 7 p.m. when Wittlich offers a family day, offering reduced prices for everyone.

Visitors to the pig festival can also take in an art exhibit at the Rathaus, or city hall.

The Wittlich Pig Burner's festival is one of the local key events and festival organizers expect thousands of visitors. The center of the town will be blocked off from traffic because all celebrations occur either in the market square or close to the center of town.

For people who take children, beware the city gets very crowded and alcohol is consumed at the festival. It's not recommended to bring children in strollers.

Typically, increased police patrols enforce the laws throughout the pig festival.

# Editorial Staff

Col. Greg Ihde.....Commander  
Capt. Angela Johnson.....Chief, Public Affairs  
Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero.....Internal Information  
Staff Sgt. Cindy York.....Editor

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Col. Greg Ihde

## Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the *Eifel Times* and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit via:

- [DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil](mailto:DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil)
- Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126
- To public affairs in building 23.
- Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more information.

## Number of days since last DUI:

As of Thursday

11

You have a choice.  
Call Airmen Against  
Drunk Driving  
at 452-2233.

# Viewpoint

Aug. 17, 2001

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## Home school/DoDDS partnership

By Col. Ian P. O'Connell  
52nd Support Group commander

I'm a home schooler and it really doesn't matter why my wife and I chose to educate our three daughters at home. There are probably as many reasons for home schooling as there are families that home school. In fact, if you hadn't noticed, one of the realities of education in the United States these days is that home schooling is more and more prevalent.

One of the challenges home schoolers face is getting access to what I call the "enrichment" activities. In Phoenix, Ariz., where I just came from, there was a multitude of activities available through various agencies, including municipal and county parks and recreation departments, the base, churches and home school associations.

Overseas in the military, there just aren't the same options. There are activities available through the services squadron youth activities,

libraries and home school support groups.

In addition, however, our DoDDS schools are willing and able to provide outstanding support in the way of access to a multitude of programs; library, physical education, art and music, as well as other extra-curricular activities, such as sports, band, drama and debate. DoDDS schools also provide instruction in single classes, such as advance placement mathematics or language, depending upon the educational needs of the home schooled student.

One limitation under current DoDDS policy is home schoolers who wish to participate in some of the extracurricular activities, especially those involving competition, for example the geography bee for elementary/middle schools, and inter-scholastic athletics for high schools, the student must be attending classes on at least a half-time basis.

How can you have your child participate?

It's easy. Simply register your child with the appropriate school. If you live where your child would otherwise attend Spangdahlem Elementary or Middle School, register at Spangdahlem. Otherwise, register at Bitburg Elementary or Middle School. All high schoolers register at Bitburg High School.

One of the things all parents will agree on is that we all want the best education for our kids. It doesn't matter whether you choose to send your children to public or private school or choose to home school, you want a well-educated child. As a home schooler, partnering with DoDDS can provide extensive resources and tools to which you may not otherwise have access.

If you decide this option is right for you and your children, contact the appropriate school principal or registrar to sign up for the programs or classes. DoDDS classes start on Aug. 27, so please sign up soon.

## Direct Lines

### Emergency leave problem

**Q**uestion: We have a program in place I feel needs tweaking — issuing tickets for emergency leave situations. Several weeks ago, specifically June 23, a friend of mine was notified through American Red Cross channels to come home since his mother was very sick. All the arrangements were made through his first sergeant and the Red Cross to get him and his family home. He was told all arrangements were taken care of; all he needed to do was go to the SATO desk at Frankfurt International Airport to collect the tickets the next day before 9:20 a.m. so they could get put on stand by for that day. Seats were secured as well for them to leave the morning of June 25.

I took them to the airport and we checked in with the SATO counter at 8:10 a.m. We were asked to stand aside while they assisted other customers. After waiting for more than an hour and 15 minutes, I asked what else needed to be completed so they could get their tickets and be on their way? We were told they needed authorization from somebody at Spangdahlem Air Base traffic management office to purchase the tickets against the fund cite they had there. We again contacted his first sergeant, who didn't have a contact number for anyone after hours at TMO. I then called the base operator and was connected to the dispatch office at the transportation squadron, who in turn called the on-call TMO person and the authorization was finally given. We tried to get them put on stand by, but it took so long to get this accomplished compounded by

the fact it was the first weekend children were out of school, no stand-by seats were available.

The SATO representative at Frankfurt told us to avoid this problem all people need is a letter from TMO saying they have permanent authorization to bill against the fund cite. The rep also said every time somebody from Spangdahlem AB comes there to pick up tickets there are problems.

Unfortunately, we found out after we arrived back here that his mother had passed away while we were still at Frankfurt trying to make these arrangements. In this situation, would it have made a difference if they had got out on June 24 instead of June 25? Maybe not, but you never know. I feel if this is corrected it could make the difference for somebody else.

**A**nswer: With current procedures, all wing first sergeants are supposed to call vehicle operations dispatch (open 24 hours) to notify the TMO stand-by representative for after-hours emergency leave requirements. Our TMO representative directly books flight reservations for our Eifel members through the 24-hour SATO ticketing office in the United States. We obtain flight reservations from Frankfurt to the first U.S. port of entry closest to the emergency leave destination.

Once reservations are confirmed, our stand-by rep provides all flight information to the first sergeant, who passes that to the member requiring emergency leave transportation. Our TMO can arrange "prepaid/electronic tickets" for emergency leave travelers,

enabling them to pick up their tickets directly from the airline counter at the airport. It is not the 52nd Transportation Squadron TMO policy to direct any emergency leave members to report directly to the Frankfurt SATO Support Office to await stand-by reservations.

The Frankfurt SATO Support Office is correct in that they need approval from our TMO to use our fund cite to pay for any travel/tickets arranged by them for Spangdahlem AB emergency leave travelers; however, providing that office with a letter indicating our fund cite and blanket approval to use same would directly violate United States Air Forces in Europe policy. We can't legally provide SATO with our base's central banking account credit card number to be placed in a reference book or computer system, without any means for us to monitor its use.

There is some truth in the Frankfurt SATO office's comment that "every time somebody from Spangdahlem AB comes there to pick up tickets there are problems." Those problems come into play when our emergency leave members report directly to Frankfurt and circumvent first sergeants and TMO.

To prevent this situation from happening to others, we asked USAFE/LGTT to provide our vehicle dispatch 24-hour phone number to the Frankfurt SATO Support Office, which was done July 18. Further, TMO briefed wing first sergeants at the weekly first sergeants' meeting July 24; none had any questions and all indicated they understand local procedures.

I would like to take this

opportunity to offer my sincere condolences to the emergency leave member concerned and regret he/she wasn't provided correct information. I hope this information will be helpful to others in the future.

### Softball field restrooms

**Q**uestion: I've attempted to find out who is responsible for the restrooms at the softball field behind the base chapel. The women's restroom has been in shambles since the beginning of May. With softball season scheduled to go through August, I can't imagine what the restroom will look like by the end of the season. It needs a good cleaning with bleach, and regular upkeep. I've seen toilet paper in it only once. The one stall door is broken and doesn't completely shut. The floors and walls are covered with feces. There is trash all over the floor and windowsill. The men's bathroom is clean and stocked with toilet paper.

**A**nswer: I apologize for the conditions you described and any inconveniences. Every morning, both male and female restrooms are cleaned and stocked by the fitness center staff. The fields and associated facilities are used by large numbers of Team Eifel members daily and efforts to keep the restrooms in tip-top shape sometimes lag behind usage.

To combat this problem, the fitness center now inspects bathroom facilities more often than once per day. In addition, civil engineers have repaired the stall door.

I ask all Team Eifel members to continue to support us in helping to keep facilities clean and safe.



## Community Mailbox

### Substitutes

Bitburg Elementary School accepts applications for a substitute nurse, substitute teachers and lunchroom monitors for next school year. Call BES at 452-9131 for more information.

### Family support center news

■ Travel to Bernkastel, Germany, Sept. 1. Trip includes lunch at a vineyard and a wine probe, a Mosel River cruise and the local wine festival. Cost is \$40 per person. Registration deadline is Aug. 27. Call 452-9491 for details or to register.

The following classes take place in building 307 on Spangdahlem Air Base. Call 452-6422 for details or to register.

■ Mutual fundamentals, 6-8 p.m. Tuesday.

■ European job seekers, noon to 1 p.m. Aug. 27.

■ Individual Retirement Accounts, 6-8 p.m. Aug. 28.

The following classes take place in building 2001 on the Bitburg Annex. Call 452-9491 for details or to register.

■ Resume writing, 8-11 a.m., Tuesday.

■ Deployment briefing, 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, and Aug. 29.

■ Home buying, 6-8 p.m., Thursday.

■ Book club discusses "Ladder of Years," by Ann Taylor, 6-8 p.m. Aug. 28.

■ Travel by train to Luxembourg, 7:30 a.m. Aug. 31. Cost is 50 DM. Meet at the Bitburg Annex commissary.

### Skills development center news

The following classes take place in



Capt. Angela Johnson

### Vacation Bible School

Kindergarteners in the firemen group play a game where contestants try to carry full ladles of water to a bucket and fill it. The Chapel Services Vacation Bible School was held Aug. 6-10 with more than 250 children and youth participating in games, art projects, songs and read stories.

building 189 on Spangdahlem Air Base. Call 452-6841 for details.

■ Tole painting, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Monday. Cost is \$12.

The following classes take place in building 2002 on the Bitburg Annex. Call Crafts Corner at 452-4141 for details or to register.

■ Tole painting, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday. Cost is \$12.

■ Basket weaving, 5-9 p.m., Thursday. Class fee is \$25. Supplies cost \$15.

### Pre-school opportunities

■ The Bunny Club meets at 10 a.m. each Thursday in the Bitburg Annex building 2, stairwell 7-8 playroom.

Call Michelle Linnen at 452-3130 for details.

■ Ready, Set, Grow meets at 11 a.m. each Wednesday in Bitburg Annex building 2, stairwell 7-8 playroom.

Call Sharon Gilmore at 452-3130 for details.

■ The Spangdahlem playgroup meets at 11:30 a.m. each Thursday in the playroom of building 161. Call Terrie Hostetter at 452-8279 for details.

■ Story hour takes place at the Bitburg Annex Library at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday and at the Spangdahlem Air Base Library at 9:30 a.m. each Thursday. Call 452-6203 or 452-9056 for details.

### Girl Scouts

Twilight camp takes place on Spangdahlem Air Base from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday-Aug. 24 for girls ages 5-17.

Call Amy Bills at 06561-942085 or e-mail rajarbills@yahoo.com to have a registration form and information sent to you. Early registration cost is \$15 for registered Girl Scouts and \$22 for non-registered girls. Also, volunteers are needed to help with the event.

Call Mickey Medlin at 06565-955865 or e-mail jmlmedlin@netscape.net to volunteer.

### Education office news

Veterans Education Assistance Program participants are eligible to convert to the Montgomery GI Bill through Oct. 31. Certain eligible active-duty members have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 benefits by \$5,400 by making a maximum contribution of \$600.

Call the base education office at 452-6063 for more information.

### Postal appointments

People who need to mail five or more boxes can call the Spangdahlem Air Base Post Office for appointments at 452-7182 or 452-7195 and ask to speak to the finance section. Appointments are available 9-10 a.m. Monday through Friday.

### Bulldog cookbook

The Spangdahlem Middle School Parent, Teacher and Student Association accepts favorite family recipes for the Bulldog cookbook, which will be available for purchase. E-mail recipes to SMS\_PTSA@hotmail.com or deliver them to the middle school office throughout the summer.

Call Mia Checkley at 06565-933303 for more information.

### Married for life

The Eifel Christian Community Association sponsors a Married for Life Fellowship Dinner tonight at 6:30 at the Spang Club.

Call Bob Lesane at 452-6331 or 06561-942981 or visit the Web page at <http://MFL.ETF-Ministries.org> for more information.